

ON A NEW SKINK LIZARD FROM TASMANIA.

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HEMISPHERIODON TASMANICUM, sp.nov.

Snout short, obtuse. Frontonasal broader than long, in contact with the rostral; præfrontals forming a median suture; three supraoculars; six supraciliaries; a series of small intraorbitals; from one to four pairs of nuchals; fifth upper labial entering the orbit.

Ear-opening round, smaller than the eye-opening. Scales smooth, twenty-six round the middle of the body. Adpressed limbs widely separated. Tail cylindrical, about as long as the head and body.

Colour: Dark olive-brown above; undersurfaces greyish or brownish; throat immaculate; tail with a series of dark wavy narrow transverse bands.

Dimensions: Total length, 207 mm.; head, 16 mm.; width of head, 11 mm.; body, 87 mm.; fore limb, 17 mm.; hind limb, 23 mm.; tail, 104 mm.

Locality: About Lake St. Clair, Tasmania (collected by Professor Spencer).

Hemisphæriodon has been so far a monotypic genus, including only the banded species, *H. gerrardii*, Gray, occurring in Queensland. The present species has the aspect of *H. gerrardii*, but is at once distinguished from it by the uniform coloration. The enlarged lateral tooth on each side of each jaw while distinctly larger than the other teeth cannot be termed enormous by comparison with them. The special interest in the species is its affinity to the Queensland species. Of course the genus may be met with hereafter in intermeidate localities, but we have not

seen it in Victoria, nor is there a record of its occurrence in New South Wales. We have, it will be remembered, a similar but even more remarkable distribution in the case of *Physignathus lesueurii*, where the same species occurs in Queensland and in Gippsland streams, but not in the intervening rivers.*

These remarks were based on the information given as to localities in the B. M. Catalogue (second edition). Subsequently we ascertained that both the species referred to have been recorded from the Clarence River, N.S.W., *H. gerrardii* by the late Mr. Krefft ("Australian Vertebrata," 1871) and *Physignathus* by Dr. Günther [Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (3), xx. p. 51 (1867)].